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Letter dated 29 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the latest incident in which personnel and vehicles belonging to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) were fired upon by the Indian army across the line of control in Neelam valley on 27 September 1998. The incident occurred in broad daylight from an Indian post only 150-200 metres away from the line of control. In view of the proximity of the location, no excuse for an identification mistake by India would be tenable. The UNMOGIP vehicles were flying the United Nations flag and were painted white with United Nations markings on either side.

You will recall that, in November 1994, two United Nations vehicles were also fired at by Indian troops in the same area. One of the vehicles was completely burnt and the observers barely escaped with their lives. Inaction by the United Nations authorities at that time has obviously encouraged the Indian troops to repeat such a blatant act.

While the Indians deny UNMOGIP the freedom of movement on their side, this incident is intended to restrict their movement in Azad Kashmir as well, in order to put a blanket on their intense firing activity across the line of control, and to prevent UNMOGIP from carrying out investigations on ceasefire violations. The Indians also wish to hide their atrocities inside Indian-held Kashmir by terrorizing the observers. Obviously, the Indian intention is to further marginalize the role of UNMOGIP, with the ultimate goal being its complete closure.

There is no doubt the Indian Government is fully involved in the incident and it was with their full knowledge and permission that the Indian army chose to target United Nations personnel.